

HOLD YOUR TONGUE!

THE TERRORS OF THE THEATRICAL CHATTERBOX.

MY DEAR LOUISE: The question of the "right of sight" at the theatre is beginning to be quite a subject of newspaper discussion, but, so far, I have not seen anything advocating "the right of hearing."

I speak feelingly on this subject, my friend, for I have lately had a severe trial of patience and temper caused by my unfortunate proximity to a middle-aged chatterbox at a performance for the enjoyment of which I had invested \$1.50 in a reserved orchestra chair. The babbler I suffered from came in with a party of five or six women of assorted ages guarded by one solitary man! Chatterbox evidently bossed the party, and after placing them encoined herself next to the escort. It was some minutes before she got well settled in her chair. Then she gave reins to her tongue, and this inflection was simply intolerable. Just fancy being compelled to absorb such interesting facts as "We need another man for our dinner party. Oh, I want a golden dish for fish—just to be kept for fish. I don't know whether I like yellow decorations or pure white. Just see that lovely English girl (this was Anna O'Keefe); isn't she fascinating, and so English. There she goes off the stage; never mind, she'll come back again. How I love short hair—think I'll have mine cut. Who is the man in front you spoke to during the intermission? He didn't seem to know you. Ah, been abroad. Well that reminds me of Miss G— who tried to make mischief between Miss Blank and myself about my wedding; said Miss Blank was saying mean things about having to wear a yellow gown, and when, to pour oil on the troubled waters, I went to Miss Blank to tell her she had my permission to withdraw, I found Miss G— had been spinning yarns to make trouble between Miss Blank and myself. Oh dear! They are going to sing that thing. Well, they ought to have pretty good voices for that. It is quite well sung. Wonder how I would look in a dress like that English girl has on. What a fine stage presence! I could make a few alterations in the style of that black gown. Mrs. T— is living abroad, that perfect life where one has the whole morning to oneself—we are going to have buckwheat cakes for breakfast; I used to think they were unwholesome; I don't now—that ideal French way of living, only a cup of coffee and a roll, then the whole morning to dress and do as one pleases. Here it is impossible to get away from people." I agreed with chatterbox in this, for every chair was taken and I could not get away from her. Her friends maintained a well bred quietude during the long acts of the play and possibly in their secret souls, were as much annoyed as I was. There are women who believe that "not to know me argues yourself unknown," consequently, by this very shallowness of worldly knowledge, they are led into considerable indiscretion of gossip. The world is very large and very small at the same time, but this paradox does not seem to enter into their calculations, and, in public places—not recognizing around them any of their own little particular clique—they unhesitatingly go ahead with their gossip, giving names and every detail. One of the most pathetic instances resulting from this ill-bred thoughtlessness came from a street car talk, where a very young girl heard a conversation carried on between two women seated on opposite sides of the car. The subject was domestic trouble in the family of the very girl sitting near them. It was fully gone over by the two gossips. The unhappiness had been carefully and lovingly concealed from the child, but she was quite old enough to ask questions. When she got home, she told the substance of the street car conversation and it was no longer possible to hide the family skeleton from her.

The buds are blossoming out in rapid succession. But older women shake their heads and predict they will bloom in an "Adamless Eden." The scarcity of "dancing men" is something to weep over. The White Squadron cannot be brought here to make up for the vanished men of the dancing class, which is now defunct for want of male material.

It looks as though the debutantes would have to hang their harps on a willow tree before the close of the unusually long season. What does all this indicate? Never were girls, even back numbers, prettier or more fascinating. As for rosbuds and dew—there is an abundance of the very first quality. But the naughty, naughty men prefer the comfort and freedom of the clubs. Herein lies the secret. Ever yours, ALICE.

Return Home of Miss Bertie Crawford. Washington has given many of its fairest daughters and brightest sons to the operatic or dramatic stage, and has seen with great gratification their crowning with the laurels of success. Among those who have reflected the utmost credit on the Capital as a field for the development of talent, is Miss Bertie Crawford, who recently resigned from the Corinne Opera Company and returned to her home in this city, where she will still further perfect her already fine voice and excellent method, under the tuition of her old teacher, Signor Malina. She will, in the spring, seek the broader field of grand opera, for which the best known critics of this country declare her eminently qualified. In light opera she has had a varied repertoire, having assumed successfully among others the roles of *Prince Caprice* in "Trip to the Moon," *Virginia* in "Maid Belleville," and *Mercedes* in "Monte Cristo, Jr."

Lieutenant Johnson's Remarkable Score. One of the most remarkable scores ever made in a rifle gallery was that made by Lieutenant Johnson at Croft & Kroech's shooting gallery last week. The score was 100 consecutive bull's eyes—a perfect score—out of a possible 500. The prize won by Mr. Johnson was a handsome Stephen's rifle.

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LATE SOCIETY NEWS.

Miss Elizabeth Tilton's marriage to Mr. William Brydon Tennant, of Petersburg, Va., was celebrated on Tuesday at 12:30, at the home of Miss Tilton's aunt, Mrs. Dunn, on Rhode Island avenue. The drawing-rooms were beautified with palms and roses. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr. Harris, of Petersburg, Pa. The bride party was composed of Mr. Lanier Dunn, who gave the bride away; his two little daughters, who preceded the bride in her entrance to the room, attired in quaint, picturesque frocks of white China silk and carrying baskets of pink roses, and Master Ritchie McKee, who held the bride's bouquet of lilies of the valley. Mr. Henry Baskerville, of Richmond, waited on the groom. A wedding breakfast followed the ceremony. Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. McKee were at the ceremony and the breakfast. Mr. and Mrs. Tennant will reside in Richmond.

Miss Louise G. Saxton, who is assistant in a private school at Nashua, N. H., returned to this city early in the week to spend the holidays with her family at Mt. Pleasant. Miss Mattie Saxton, who is a violin pupil of the Scharwenka Conservatory in New York, will also come here for the holidays.

Representative O'Neill has taken apartments at the Cochran for the session. Mrs. O'Neill will not arrive until the close of the holidays.

General Vincent has returned from his official visit West. Mrs. Vincent, who was quite seriously injured a few days ago in a carriage accident, is slowly convalescing.

Miss Julia Waggoner has issued invitations for a fancy dress ball at her home, in Georgetown, on the evening of December 29 from 7 to 11 o'clock.

Mrs. L. F. McKinney will give a tea on Tuesday from 5 to 7 at 1313 Rhode Island avenue.

Mrs. Macklin, of New York, is visiting Mrs. Charles J. Singer at 1633 Sixteenth street.

Tuesday, January 5, is the date fixed for the coming out ball of Miss Bonaparte. It will take place at the Arlington.

The wedding of Mr. Marshall Cushing, private secretary to Postmaster-General Wanamaker and Miss Isabel McBride Palmer, daughter of Judge Palmer, of Salt Lake, will take place in San Francisco on Christmas Day. The bride pair will reside at 1419 Twentieth street.

Mrs. and Miss Landis, the mother and sister of Lieutenant Landis, of Fort Myer, are at the Richmond for the winter.

Mrs. Hermann Hollerith gave a rosbud luncheon on Tuesday to several debutantes. They were Miss Dorothy Wheatley, Miss Emily Dunlop, Miss Shoemaker, Miss Bradley, Miss Eva Gilbert, Miss Matthews, and Miss Margaret Billings.

Mrs. Thomas Riggs gave a yellow luncheon on Wednesday.

Mrs. Taylor, wife of Captain D. M. Taylor, of the Ordnance Corps, is in New York City, where she was called early in the week by the illness of her brother, John H. Gardner, Jr. His death occurred on Wednesday, at the home of his brother-in-law, Louis Crist Delmonico. The funeral services were held Friday afternoon at No. 188 West Seventy-second street. The body was carried to Albany for burial. Mr. Gardner, as well as his father and brother, are well known to the frequenters of Sharon Springs, where they have been in the hotel business for many years.

Mrs. Fuller will remain abroad this winter with her daughters.

Mrs. Cabell's reception to the Daughters of the American Revolution last evening, was one of the most thoroughly enjoyed affairs of the season.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Foster held the second of their series of weekly receptions on Monday evening. The members of the Diplomatic Corps are the guests of honor on these occasions.

Miss Nannie Allen will spend the winter in Germany.

The marriage of Mr. Peter Henry Helskell, Jr., of this city, and Miss Florence Edna Bliss, of New York, will be celebrated in the latter city on January 6. A large reception will be held after the ceremony at the home of the bride's parents, 140 West One Hundred and Twenty-sixth street.

Hon. and Mrs. John Lind, of Minnesota, have taken the house, 1513 O street.

The First Comptroller and Mrs. Matthews are settled for the season at 924 Fourteenth street.

Miss Nellie Clark, of Philadelphia, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Potts, of 232 Third street northeast.

Miss Leckie will spend the holidays with her aunt, Mrs. Hodgkins, of No. 1335 Q street.

Miss Riggs, of Iowa Circle, will give a tea on the 29th instant in honor of the Princeton Glee and Banjo clubs.

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Porter, Jr., are back from their wedding journey, and will be at home to their friends on Mondays in January at 129 C street southeast.

Mrs. John Routh, of Pittsburg, formerly Mrs. Bates, of West Washington, is visiting friends in this city.

Mrs. George Alex Gordon is at 815 Vermont avenue.

Miss Fannie Caulfield's marriage to Mr. George B. Howard, of New York, will take place on the morning of Wednesday, December 30. The ceremony will be performed at the residence of the bride's parents, Professor and Mrs. Caulfield, in the presence of the immediate relatives. Owing to the family being in mourning, the wedding will be a very quiet affair.

Mrs. Mattingly has issued cards for a dance in honor of the Princeton Glee and Banjo clubs on Tuesday evening, 29th instant.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Nutt, of St. Louis, have leased the residence of Professor Alex Graham Bell on Nineteenth street.

The wedding of Miss Louise Bayard and Dr. Frank Angell will be celebrated at Wilmington, Del., to-morrow. The ceremony will be performed in the drawing-room of ex-Secretary Bayard's residence. Miss Florence Bayard will attend her sister as bridesmaid. Right Rev. Leighton Coleman, Bishop of Delaware, will perform the marriage rites assisted by Rev. Dr. Henry and Rev. Dr. Dunlap, rector and assistant rector of Trinity Church, Wilmington.

Miss Purcell's rose tea was one of the very prettiest parties of the week. The attractive young hostess was charmingly dressed in white mousseline de soie. Mrs. Purcell was in black silk and point lace. The ladies assisting were Mrs. Captain Miller, Mrs. McLennan, Mrs. Hoskins, Miss Dyer, and Miss Worthington. Miss Sutherland, daughter of

the Surgeon General of the Army, poured tea, and Miss Miller served cafe frappe. Among others present were Captain and Mrs. Bliss, Mrs. Dr. Heger, Major and Mrs. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis, Miss Emily White, the Misses Cox, Mrs. General Moore, Mrs. and the Misses Chamberlain. Lieutenant Chamberlain, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Dyer, Mr. and Mrs. Deeble, the Misses Livingston, Miss Pairo, the Misses Chinn, Miss Poindexter, Miss Rebecca Potts, Mr. and Mrs. Driggs, Mrs. Hentzelman, Dr. and Mrs. Kerr, the Misses McParlin, Mrs. Montgomery, the Misses Harold, the Misses Heaven, the Misses Scott, Mrs. and Miss Silvey, Captain and Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Emory, Mrs. Kilbourne, and Mr. Kemp.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stewart Osborn are settled at the Shoreham for the winter.

Mrs. Perry, wife of Rev. Dr. Perry, of St. Andrew's, has returned from a fortnight's visit to Richmond.

Captain D. M. Lee, of the Army, is at 906 Fourteenth street.

On Wednesday evening Mrs. Perry Fuller gave a dinner party at her home, on New Jersey avenue. The guests numbered sixteen. The decorations were of holly and evergreens.

Hon. and Mrs. Horatio King have given invitations to their friends to meet the members of the American Association, at their residence, on H street, Wednesday, 30th instant, from 4 to 7 p. m.

Mrs. Mary Metcalf and Mr. Lemuel Barber were married last evening, at 8 o'clock, at the parsonage of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, corner of Eleventh and H streets northwest. The Rev. Dr. Dorr officiating. Only the immediate relatives of the contracting parties were present. The bride was very becomingly attired in a gown of light tan-colored broadcloth, trimmed with black velvet, hat to match. After the ceremony the bride and groom drove to the B. & P. depot and took the 9 o'clock train for New York.

The Mignonette Club has issued invitations to its third reunion for the season at the National Rifles' Armory for Monday evening, January 4.

Miss Helen M. Towson, of Upperville, Va., is visiting friends and relatives in this city and Alexandria.

Miss Mildred Ross has returned from Elmira College for the holidays. Miss Della Proctor, of Lewistown, Ill., accompanied her as her guest.

Mrs. C. F. McKinney has sent out invitations for a reception Tuesday, December 22, from 5 to 7 p. m.

Mrs. Senator Paddock will not receive on Thursdays this season.

Senator and Mrs. Sherman have sent out cards for the marriage of their niece, Miss Rachel Ewing Sherman, and Dr. Paul Thorndyke at noon Wednesday, December 30, at their residence, 1319 K street.

A party of Georgetown's young society men have made arrangements for a dance at Luthicum Hall on the evening of December 23, for which cards of invitation have been issued.

Miss Chew, of Baltimore, is visiting Mrs. Semmes, in Georgetown.

Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Flint are guests of Mrs. Nourse, at her residence, 2833 Q street.

Captain Lemuel A. Abbott, of the Army (retired), formerly of the Sixth Cavalry, is at the Hotel Belvedere for the winter.

The wedding of Representative Hemphill and Miss Elizabeth Henry will take place on Tuesday.

The wedding of Representative Hemphill and Miss Elizabeth Henry will be solemnized at 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening in Epiphany Church. Miss May Cox will be maid of honor, and Mr. Zachary, of New York, best man. The ushers will be Messrs. Walter Davidge, Clement Henry, Ryder Henry, Alexander Legare, Herbert Galey, and Colonel Johnstone, of South Carolina. No cards have been issued. Representative Hemphill and bride will reside at the Shoreham.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Dixon, of Montana, are at the Shoreham for the winter.

Miss Clagett left Friday morning for St. Paul to spend the winter with relatives.

Miss Clagett gave a pretty tea on Thursday in honor of Miss Black, daughter of Colonel Black, of the Army. The ladies assisting were Mrs. Paul Andrews, Miss Hutchinson, and Miss Williams. Miss Clagett was in a stylish gown of light gray silk with vest of pink. Miss Black wore black lace and jet.

The marriage of Miss Virginia B. Crosby and E. Percy Moran, the artist, took place in Trinity Chapel, New York, Wednesday afternoon.

Major Gregory, U. S. Army, and Mrs. Gregory have returned from an extended European tour.

Mr. and Mrs. George Crehore gave a dancing party on Tuesday evening, at which were present the Misses Nichols, Misses Waller, Fitz, Kohler, Adams, the Misses Dodge, and Messrs. Frank Dodge, Foley, Warfield, Faulkner, Frisch, Dunn, and Mertz.

Miss Irene Hellprin has returned from a three months' visit to Canada.

Mrs. Dallas, widow of the late Commodore Dallas, United States Navy, and Mr. and Mrs. Strong, are at 1825 I street, where they will be pleased to see their friends.

Mrs. A. A. Wilson will receive on Wednesday.

Cards have been issued for the wedding of Miss Emma Ferry and Mr. Walter W. Cruit, at the residence of the bride, Tuesday, December 29, at 10:30 a. m.

The engagement is announced of Miss Rachel Hartogensis, of Washington, and Mr. H. Blumenthal, of Baltimore.

Miss Leiter has issued cards for two teas, the first to come off on Wednesday and the second on the last Wednesday of the year.

Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Brooks are at the Langham.

Doctor and Mrs. William F. Morell are located at 1522 Q street.

Mrs. W. D. Bynum will receive on Saturdays at 1314 Nineteenth street.

There is much interest at present among society young people in the private theatricals to be given at the Arlington in January. The different parts will be taken by the leading society belles. The ladies of the National Mary Washington Memorial Association have the matter in charge. It promises to be one of the social events of the winter.

Bartholomay's Rochester Beer is brewed from the finest hops and choicest Canadian malt; is fully fermented and guaranteed pure in every respect. It's a nourishing beverage and just what you want to aid the digestion of your Xmas dinner. Delivered to any part of the city. Try a box. Washington Branch, 1110 and 1112 C street northwest. Telephone No. 441.

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THE CLUB FORTNIGHTLIES.

Good Entertainments at the Columbia and Potomac Club Houses Last Night.

The Columbia Athletic Club House was packed last night by friends and members to witness the usual fortnightly meeting of Professor Crossley's classes. Much interest was taken in the events on the programme which opened with exercises on the ladder by Professor Crossley and the junior class, the Messrs. Tausig acquitting themselves admirably. Then Elder and French gave a very lively set-to for nine minutes with the gloves, the hitting and dodging of both being clever. This was followed by the "brothers' act" by Messrs. Mooney, Sewall, and Crossley, which for a first performance was good. Messrs. Blunt and Mitchell then wrestled three rounds. Again the junior class came out and exhibited their skill on the rings, which was followed by exercises over the horse from the spring board. Professor Murphy, the club's instructor in sparring then showed up against De Saussure. It was a walk-around. This was followed by the event of the evening, a sparring encounter between Von Lindgren and George Carter. The first round was a splendid affair from a scientific point, the second became somewhat stagy, while the third was decidedly off. Nevertheless it pleased and everybody was happy.

The Potomac Athletics had a delightful "at home" at their cozy quarters at Seventeenth street and the Avenue, their parlors being thronged. Mr. O. P. Schmidt was master of ceremonies, and in opening spoke in a very humorous manner of athletics in general. There was singing by Professor Fred Robstock, the noted baritone from St. Peter's, New York. Club singing by Mr. Doyle, of the Y. M. C. A., who is regarded as the foremost exponent of that business, solos by Mr. William Jones and James Miller, a splendid show of fancy steps in dancing by Master Tommy Bulky, and a rattling sparring exhibition by the Messrs. Givens, of the Light Infantry. This was the card of the evening. Owing to an accident to Mr. Bert Moore while playing football yesterday, he was unable to meet Mr. Jones in sparring. The next affair takes place on New Year's eve and it will be a lively one.

Barmaids Too Attractive. Their Employer Worn Out in Bouncing Over-Familiar Customers.

The downtown drinkers were thrilled five months ago when it was announced that John Blakely, who keeps a bar-room and cigar store on Broadway, had employed genuine British barmaids. They were sisters and fair to look upon, particularly when arrayed in white aprons and caps they juggled drinks or drew "a half a pint of bitters" for the suffering male populace.

Business increased, and the morose Blakely, who seeks free advertising, was wont to smile at stated intervals. Men who never drink anything stronger than soda cocktails began to patronize Blakely's establishment. The girls were very popular, but not at all frivolous.

Not so the men. From airy, unmeaning persiflage they waxed into bold remarks, such as "Ah, there, baby." Now a remark like "Ah, there, baby" might have distressed these maidens, but as they were getting \$15 a week they concluded that they could stand it. Blakely didn't like it, though, and said so.

Thus matters went on until one day a festive broker, who had been preparing for the bi-choride of gold treatment, decided to steal a kiss from one of the girls. A moment later he was sailing through the door with boot accompaniment.

The broker separated himself from the sidewalk and went on his way dejected. Other men attempted familiarities with like consequences.

Blakely concluded that while he was ordained by a higher power to run a cigar store and bar-room he was never mapped out to be an all-round athlete.

The bounding process became irksome, and so last Saturday he was compelled to bid a sad adieu to his British barmaids. They hated to go, and offered to work for less money, but the wearied Blakely had made up his mind, and so yesterday a red moustache presided at the bar so recently graced by the presence of the girls. No one will attempt familiarities with him.

THE CUSTOMER WAS WILLING And Tried to Satisfy the Curiosity of the Inquisitive Clerk.

Chicago Tribune. Every one has seen him. He works in some capacity in fully half the stores in the country, and is known either as the inquisitive clerk or the clerk-who-knows-it-all.

He was behind the counter in one of the many drug stores where he is employed a few days ago when a man came in and said he wanted to get half a dozen six-ounce bottles.

"Bottles?" he asked.

"Yes, bottles," responded the man.

"With or without corks?" he inquired.

"With corks," was the response.

"Want 'em empty?" he inquired.

"And new?"

"Do you suppose I want bottles you've been keeping strychnine in?"

The clerk said such an idea never entered his head, and then asked:

"What do you want them for?"

"To break," responded the impatient customer promptly.

"What?"

The customer beckoned to him to lean over the counter, and then caught hold of the lapel of his coat and whispered:

"I wouldn't want the neighbors to get on to it, but I rather like to hear them crack. Just a whim of mine. It's better than breaking windows, and gives me just as much pleasure, but my supply has given out, and I want a few to hold me over until another car-load arrives."

The clerk looked at the customer doubtfully.

"Oh, well, of course it's nothing to me," he said.

"Then what made you ask about it?" demanded the customer.

The clerk made no reply but got the bottles. As he was making the change, however, the spirit moved him to ask:

"What do you do with the corks?"

"Chew 'em," was the reply. "It's good for digestion. Try it some time."

Then the customer walked out, and the clerk shook his head and tapped his forehead. But he has asked no questions since.

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TOWN TALK.

—Frank MacKall, of D street southwest, while playing with a pistol yesterday afternoon accidentally shot himself in the hand, making a very ugly wound. He received medical attention at the Emergency Hospital.

—Do you know where The Fair is? If you do not you have a pleasure in store for you when you pay it a visit. Why, it is the grand emporium of the city for toys for the children—toys of all kinds, classes, shapes, and conditions, big and little. The Fair is at the corner of Seventh and H streets northwest, and Messrs. Frankie & Co. are ready to welcome everybody and to afford excellent bargains to all customers. A hint to the wise is sufficient. Call and see the beautiful Christmas tree and the artistic dressing of the show windows. It will be as good as a circus to gaze upon them.

—No house in this city is better known for its reliability and popular prices than the establishment of Thomas D. Singleton, No. 415 Seventh street northwest. This popular merchant has a large and varied stock of furniture and furnishings which he is prepared to offer at prices lower than the lowest. He invariably offers a discount when cash sales are made. Everybody is welcome to examine the vast stock whether intending to be purchasers or not, but when the excellence and cheapness of the stock is seen there will be few visitors who will go away without a purchase. Now is the accepted time to secure real honest bargains.

—Following out Postmaster General Wanamaker's order in relation to promotions the several postofficers, Postmaster Sherwood has appointed the following as the examining board for the Washington office: Superintendent—Bell, of the City Division; Beach, of the Registry; Springer, of Mailing; Johnson, of the Money Order; Towers, of Station C, and Grant, of East Capital.

—Now is the time to secure cheap groceries for the holidays. Messrs. Latimer & Sloan will sell on Tuesday next, commencing at 10 o'clock, the entire effects of grocery store at 945 R street northwest.

—Mrs. Mollie Bird, the attendant at the Washington Asylum, who was run over on Pennsylvania avenue on Friday, and who was supposed to be fatally injured, was reported out of danger last night.

—Mr. W. R. Campbell brought to the First Station last night a wagon with a good team of horses that he believed to have been stolen. It answered the description of one he had heard a man report as missing